

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A split rim for a tire comprising:

a one-side rim section on which a one-side bead portion of a pneumatic tire is seated and which has an outer cylindrical portion in an approximately cylindrical shape projecting inward in the axial direction;

an other-side rim section on which the other-side bead portion of said pneumatic tire is seated and which has an inner cylindrical portion in an approximately cylindrical shape projecting inward in the axial direction and inserted into the outer cylindrical portion of said one-side rim section;

a fastening means for fastening said one-side and the other-side rim sections to each other when the cylindrical portions of the one-side and the other-side rim sections are overlaid due to said insertion; and

an expanding means for expanding a part of the inner cylindrical portion at said overlaid part outward in the radial direction to bring the inner and the outer cylindrical portions into close contact,

wherein the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with each other.

2. (Previously Presented) A split rim for a tire according to claim 1, wherein said expanding means comprises a piston to be movably inserted into either of the cylindrical portions in the axial direction and having a tapered surface whose thickness is gradually reduced toward a tip end of the inner cylindrical portion; and

a fluid chamber for expanding a part of the inner cylindrical portion by the tapered surface of the piston by having a fluid pressure to act on the piston to move it toward the tip end when a fluid is supplied.

3. (Previously Presented) A split rim for a tire comprising:

a one-side rim section on which a one-side bead portion of a pneumatic tire is seated and which has an outer cylindrical portion in an approximately cylindrical shape projecting inward in the axial direction;

an other-side rim section on which the other-side bead portion of said pneumatic tire is seated and which has an inner cylindrical portion in an approximately cylindrical shape projecting inward in the axial direction and inserted into the outer cylindrical portion of said one-side rim section;

a fastening means for fastening said one-side and the other-side rim sections to each other when the cylindrical portions of the one-side and the other-side rim sections are overlaid due to said insertion; and

an expanding means for expanding a part of the inner cylindrical portion at said overlaid part outward in the radial direction to bring the inner and the outer cylindrical portions into close contact,

wherein said fastening means is provided on either of the one-side rim section or the other-side rim section with an equal distance from a rotation center and comprises a shaft body extending toward the other remaining rim section in the axial direction,

a plurality of fastening shafts made of projections projected outward from the shaft body, and a plurality of penetrating fastening holes formed on the other remaining rim section with an equal distance from the rotation center and made of a large hole portion through which said projections can pass in the axial direction and an arc portion extending from each of the large hole portions toward the one side in the circumferential direction and

having the width which is the same as or larger than the shaft body and smaller than the projections.

4. (Previously Presented) A split rim for a pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said fastening means can fasten the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section at a plurality of positions in the axial direction.

5. (Original) A split rim for a pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of projections are provided equally spaced from each other on said shaft body in the axial direction so that the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section can be fastened at a plurality of axial positions.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a rim/tire assembly comprising:

a process of overlaying cylindrical portions of a one-side and the other-side rim sections by seating a one-side bead portion of a pneumatic tire on the one-side rim section and the other-side bead portion on the other side rim section as well as by inserting the cylindrical portion in the approximately cylindrical shape of the other-side rim section projecting inward in the axial direction into the cylindrical portion in the approximately cylindrical shape of the one-side rim section projecting inward in the axial direction; and

a process of bringing the cylindrical portions on the inner and the outer sides into close contact by fastening said one-side and the other-side rim sections to each other with a fastening means and expanding a part of the inner cylindrical portion in the overlaid part outward in the radial direction with an expanding means,

wherein the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with each other,

wherein the fastening means includes claws provided on the inner periphery of the cylindrical portion of the one-side rim section and the claws provided on the outer periphery of the cylindrical portion of the other-side rim section,

wherein the claws of the one-side rim section and the claws of the other-side rim section are engaged with each other when fluid under pressure is supplied to a tire chamber of the tire to generate a force in a direction to separate the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section from each other and for setting the rim width to a predetermined value and wherein when fluid under pressure is supplied to said ~~expanding means preventing means~~, relative rotation between the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section is prevented.

7-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A split rim for a tire comprising:

a one-side rim section on which a one-side bead portion of a pneumatic tire is seated and which has an outer cylindrical portion in an approximately cylindrical shape projecting inward in the axial direction;

an other-side rim section on which the other-side bead portion of said pneumatic tire is seated and which has an inner cylindrical portion in an approximately cylindrical shape projecting inward in the axial direction and inserted into the outer cylindrical portion of said one-side rim section;

a fastening means for fastening said one-side and the other-side rim sections to each other when the cylindrical portions of the one-side and the other-side rim sections are overlaid due to said insertion; and

an expanding means for expanding a part of the inner cylindrical portion at said overlaid part outward in the radial direction to bring the inner and the outer cylindrical portions into close contact,

wherein the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with each other,

wherein the fastening means includes claws provided on the inner periphery of the cylindrical portion of the one-side rim section and the claws provided on the outer periphery of the cylindrical portion of the other-side rim section, and

wherein the claws of the one-side rim section and the claws of the other-side rim section are engaged with each other when fluid under pressure is supplied to a tire chamber of the tire to generate a force in a direction to separate the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section from each other and for setting the rim width to a predetermined value and wherein when fluid under pressure is supplied to the expanding ~~means preventing means~~, relative rotation between the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section is prevented.